Approximat expenditure in rehabilitation of N.E. Ultras

247. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the per head approximate expenditure in rehabilitating ultras in the N.E.;

(b) whether Assam and other States of the N.E. have approached the Union Govenment to provide the entire amount; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Central Government is considering a propsal to rehabilitate ultras in N.E. Since the proposal has not so far been finalised, the question of expenditure on rehabilitation of ultras does not arise.

Setting up of Tidal Station in Kerala

248. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tidal station for generation of energy from tidal waves, set up in Kerala a few years ago, had sunk in the sea;

(b) whether Government are endeavouring to explore power genreation from tidal currents; if so, the generation of energy from tidal waves being problematic;

(c) if so, teh progress made in this direction so far; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No tidal station has so far been built in Kerala, or in any other part of the country.

(b) and (c) In order to explore the possibility of generating power from tidal energy, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources carried out a feasibility study for construction of a mini-tidal power plant in Durgaduani creek in Sunderbans, West Bengal. Based on the requisite field studies and computer modeling exercises, a detailed project report is being prepared through the State Govt. Nodal Agency for Renewable Sources of Energy in West Bengal, with the support of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. The experience in the Durgaduani Tidal Power Project would help in further development of tidal power genration in the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Solar Energy for Gujarat Villages

249. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether electrification of all the villages in Gujarat is not possible due to certain reasons;

(b) if so, whether the Government are formulating a scheme to identify such villages in the State and provide them solar energy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Out of the 18,028 inhabited villages in Gujarat, the Gujarat Electricity Board has already electrified 17,940 villages. The electrfication of the balance 88 villages has not been considered feasible by the State Government due to various reasons such as no population, submergence and location in deep sea. Out of the villages already electrified, 207 have been electrified through provision of solar street lighting systems.